

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is being made to advance the prosecution of the application to allowance, with each of the independent claims being amended to clearly distinguish over the applied prior art. Applicants believe that this amendment should be entered and does not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search since the amendment distinguishes how the telecommunication session is handled based on the preferences of the session terminator, which has been previously analyzed significantly by the Examiner in the previous Official Actions.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 13, 16, 18, and 19 are amended, and claims 2, 6, 20, and 21 are canceled. Claims 8 and 10-12 were previously canceled. Accordingly, upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 13-19, and 22-24 are currently pending.

In the Final Official Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 13-14, 16-17, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over FURLONG et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0028621 A1) in view of PESSI et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0083291 A1).

Claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over FURLONG in view of PESSI, and further in view of LILLIE et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0131042 A1).

Claims 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over FURLONG in view of PESSI, and further in view of LEI et al. (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0203664 A1).

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over FURLONG in view of PESSI, and further in view of HIRI et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,123,707 B1).

In the Final Official Action, Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 13-14, 16-17, and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over FURLONG in view of PESSI. Upon entry of the present amendment, each of the independent claims are amended.

A distinction between claims 1, 13, and 16 and the documents applied in the Official Action is that based upon the preferred treatment dictated by the preferences of the session terminator, the session request results in one of four possible outcomes. The session can be either initiated by accepting the session request, the session can be rejected by rejecting the session request, the session can be deferred by directing the session initiator to a message storage system, or the session can be engaged in a dynamic information collection mode.

This distinction is further defined in that the dynamic information collection mode causes additional information to be dynamically collected from the session initiator. The dynamic collection is implemented through an interactive voice response conversation with the session initiator during which additional information including at least one of a session subject, session, urgency, or session type is collected. The additional information is then used to determine if the session is initiated by accepting the session request, rejected by rejecting the session request, or deferred by directing the session initiator to a message storage system.

The Official Final Action pointed to FURLONG's paragraphs [0030]-[0032] as disclosing how a session request is handled based upon the preferences of a session terminator. In these paragraphs, FURLONG discloses that subscriber preferences are used to either allow or deny subscriber access by individuals attempting to contact a subscriber. However, FURLONG fails to disclose the possible session outcome of deferring the session by directing the session initiator to a message storage system or the possible session outcome of engaging in a dynamic

information collection mode. Additionally, PESSI also fails to disclose these possible session outcomes as well.

Further, since neither FURLONG nor PESSI disclose the possible outcome of engaging in a dynamic information collection mode, these references clearly fail to disclose the specific implementation of the claimed dynamic information collection mode. More specifically, FURLONG and PESSI fail to disclose a dynamic collection that is implemented through an interactive voice response conversation with the session initiator during which additional information including at least one of a session subject, session, urgency, or session type is collected. The applied references also fail to disclose that the additional information is then used to determine if the session is initiated by accepting the session request, rejected by rejecting the session request, or deferred by directing the session initiator to a message storage system.

As stated above, these features are included in each of the amended independent claims 1, 13, and 16. FURLONG and PESSI fail to disclose, teach, or render obvious independent claims 1, 13, and 16, as amended. Further, these features are not disclosed, taught, or rendered obvious by any combination of applied prior art including LILLIE, LEI, or HIRI, which were previously applied to various dependent claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1, 13, and 16 be withdrawn since the claims are directed to patentable subject matter. Also, since claims 3-5, 7, 9, 14, 15, 17-19, and 22-24 depend either directly or indirectly from one of independent claims 1, 13, or 16, Applicants further request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn for at least the reasons stated above and further for the features recited therein.


SUMMARY

From the amendments, arguments, and remarks provided above, Applicants believe that all of the pending claims in the present application are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Final Official Action is respectfully requested and an indication of the allowance of claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 13-19, and 22-24 is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made by this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Mark MUELLER et al.


Joshua M. Povsner
Reg. #42,086
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191